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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application:)
Gadberry, et al.)
Serial No.: 09/675,851) DOCKET NO.: AUS-1719-AV
Filed: September 20, 2000)
For: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH)
IMPROVED HANDLE ASSEMBLY)

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JAN 23 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

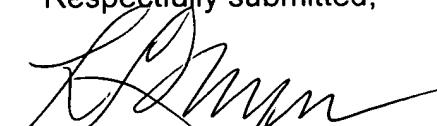
Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that an extension of time to file a Response to Requirement for Restriction mailed November 20, 2002, regarding the above-identified U.S. Patent Application be granted for a period of one (1) month up to and including January 20, 2003, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(1) and 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a).

The requisite fee of \$55.00 is included in our enclosed check.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2215.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard L. Myers
Registration No. 26,490

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55.00 QP

Date: Jan. 15, 2003
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